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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MASAKAZU ONIZUKA ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/529,257 Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed: APRIL 11, 2000 Examiner: Jennifer A. Leung

Title: WET GAS DESULFURIZATION APPARATUS TO DESULFURIZE EXHAUST SMOKE

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

(A copy of the marked-up version of the specification as amended is attached to this Amendment).

Please delete the paragraph on page 5, lines 1 to 8, and replace it with the following paragraph:

The air used for oxidation may be blown into liquid 11 as it is being conducted to the bottom of tank 102, or it may be introduced in pipe 110b and brought into contact with the liquid containing a high concentration of SO₂. This will speed up the oxidation reaction. The air can be distributed uniformly throughout tank 102 in the form of tiny bubbles which escape through pinholes 111a on the bottoms of a traylike array of pipes 111.